

with carpets, flowered with gold and silver, and the King and Queen being seated at the upper end of the table, dinner was brought in, which consisted of the greatest dainties, in a number of covered dishes; but the moment the covers were taken off, an amazing number of rats and mice jumped on the table, and devoured the whole dinner. The factor, in great surprize, turned to one of the nobles in waiting, and asked if the vermin were not offensive? Oh yes, said he, very offensive, and the King would give half his treasure to be rid of them; for they not only eat his food, but they assault him in his chamber; nay, even in bed, so that he is obliged to be watched while he is sleeping, for fear of them.

The factor jumped for joy, immediately recollecting Whittington's cat, and told their Majesties that there was a small creature on board his ship would dispatch them presently.

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The King was so agitated with pleasure at this news, that his turban dropped from off his head. Let the creature be brought, said he, immediately, and if she performs what you promise, that of driving the vermin from my court, which I think impossible, I will, in exchange for her, load your ship with gold, and the richest jewels of my country. The factor took this opportunity to extol Mrs. Puss, by telling his majesty it would be inconvenient for him to part with her, as the rats and mice might then destroy the goods in his ship, but that to oblige his majesty he would fetch her. Run, run, said the Queen, I am impatient to see the dear creature.

The factor immediately went for puss, and another dinner was provided for the company, which the rats and mice were again devouring, just as the factor returned with her. Like lightning she sprung out of his arms